



# Engineering Freedom



Issue 3

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Newsletter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade

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March 3, 2005

## New NCOs Inducted into Corps

Four noncommissioned officers (NCOs) were inducted into the NCO corps in a ceremony here February 26.

“Getting promoted is a big deal at any rank. As you move up the ranks, you must improve your leadership skills. It is easy to order soldiers to do things. The real test of a leader is to motivate soldiers to do the right thing without being ordered. To master this you must take care of the soldiers you lead. That means: training them, mentoring, listening to their concerns, and rewarding and disciplining soldiers in a professional manner,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Graves.



Sgts. Leah Beesmer, Jeremy Davis, Samuel Hawks, and Louise Waweru recite the NCO Oath led by Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Graves. Sgt. Todd Cress will be inducted individually. Cress was unavailable for Saturday's ceremony.



*No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.*

*Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.*

*Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!*

## The NCO Oath

I will discharge carefully and diligently the duties and responsibilities of an NCO. I will uphold the traditions and standards of the Army. I understand that soldiers of lesser rank are required to obey my lawful orders. Accordingly, I accept responsibility for their actions. As a noncommissioned officer, I accept the charge to observe and follow the orders and directions given by supervisors acting according to the laws, articles and rules governing the discipline of the Army, I will correct conditions detrimental to the readiness thereof. In so doing, I will fulfill my greatest obligation as a leader and thereby confirm my status as a noncommissioned officer.



*What being an NCO means to me:*

Sgt. Hawks: *I am expected to meet and exceed the standards and be a leader with a positive outlook.*

Sgt. Waweru: *To me, being an NCO means I am a reflection of the army standards, rules and regulations.*

Sgt. Beesmer: *Making it my duty to train, guide and lead our junior enlisted soldiers to be tomorrow's leaders.*

Sgt. Davis: *For the officers, we are eyes, and for the troops we are ears; but in the big scheme of things, we are the backbone of the military.*

## *Promotions!*



Brig. Gen. Thomas Lawing, brigade commander, pins rank on newly promoted Lt. Col. Calvin Harris.



Samuel Hawks is promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Jason Gilson and Lt. Col. Jim Ernst do the honors of pinning on Hawks' new rank.



Jamie Robinson is promoted to Master Sergeant at a ceremony February 28. "It only took me 29 years, 3 months, and 20 days," quipped Robinson.



Pvt. Eric Brown salutes Capt. Timothy Gerald, company commander, before pinning on the rank of Private First Class. Brown, 19, is the youngest soldier in the HHC, 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade.

*There are new pictures posted on our website: [www.engineeringfreedom.us](http://www.engineeringfreedom.us)*





With the help of Coalition Forces, the Tedmur Girls School in Balad was completely renovated. At left, students gather in front of the school to celebrate their grand re-opening. Right, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jamie Helms, 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade Senior Legal NCO and Mr. Joe Riccio of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Project & Contracting Office (PCO) stand with a group of playful Tedmur School students in the schoolyard. The PCO is instrumental in funding renovations such as this one. The 30<sup>th</sup> Engineers manage the contracting arrangements with local Iraqi builders.



Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jesse Martin, 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, S-5 section give a thumbs-up with students of the Al Raffei School in Balad to express their satisfaction with the school renovations there.



Hussein Bakeer, a student at the Al Raffei School, says the renovations are "very, very good." Hussein studies hard. His favorite subject is English and he wants to be a teacher.

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Operation Iraqi Hope is a program run by the 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade S-5 (Civil-Military Operations) to collect and deliver school supplies to Iraqi children.  
If you or your organization would like to help, contact: [calvin.lee.harris@us.army.mil](mailto:calvin.lee.harris@us.army.mil)  
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